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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
08/521,760	03/20/97	MEYER	A 006523-150

EXAMINER

E1M1/0916

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

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DATE MAILED 09/16/97

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on March 20, 1997

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
☒ Claim(s) 13, 15 and 18 is/are rejected.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on March 20, 1997 is ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.
☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.
☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

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1. The preliminary amendment filed March 20, 1997 has been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 13, lines 15-16, "said prescribed length" does not have proper antecedent basis.
- Claim 18, which depends from claim 13, is a duplicate of lines 17-25 of claim 13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Eley (US PAT. 4,113,339) in view of Laipply et al. (Laipply hereinafter: US PAT. 4,793,637).

Eley discloses a load break bushing having an electrical terminator 12 and an electrical bushing component 30 having all of the features claimed except for a color band formed on one of the terminator and bushing component for visual indication of positive latching. However, Laipply teaches the use of color groove 46 which would be covered by a ring 48 for visual indication of

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positive connection between male and female parts. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Eley's bushing by adopting the teaching of Laipply to enhance the detection of the incomplete engagement of the connector terminals.

5. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art discussed in the specification from line 14 of page 4 through line 8 of page 5 in view of Woodward (GB 2,254,493) and Beebee et al. (Beebee hereinafter: US PAT. 2,892,991).

As disclosed in the specification by Applicants, the only difference between the disclosed prior art and the subject matter claimed is that the prior art is not provided with the claimed visual indicators. However, Woodward teaches the use of visual indicators (30, 47 and 29) to more positively detect the incomplete engagement of the connector terminals. Further, Beebee teaches the use of color band to enhance the detection of the incomplete engagement of the connector terminals. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed prior art by adopting the teachings of Woodward and Beebee to enhance the detection of the incomplete engagement of the connector terminals. Further, in view of the disclosed prior art, Woodward and Beebee, the claimed method would have been inherent to connect an electrical terminator to an electrical bushing.

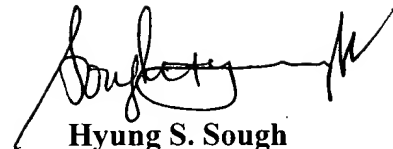
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hyung S. Sough whose telephone number is (703) 308-0505. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782. The Group Fax number is (703) 305-3431 or (703) 305-3432.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sough', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hyung S. Sough
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2109

shs
September 13, 1997